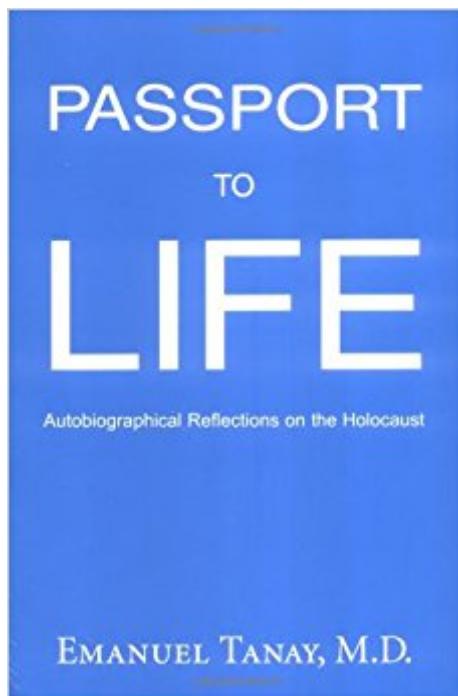


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# Passport To Life: Autobiographical Reflections On The Holocaust



## **Synopsis**

This is a book about a teenager's struggle to stay alive in a culture of death. It tells the story of a young adult who, after the ordeal of the Holocaust, lived a good life. It ends with an old man who enjoys family, professional success, health and prosperity. This book reflects the lessons learned from the author's 50 years of psychiatric practice and his experiences during the Holocaust.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"deeply moving. It will give the reader lessons of courage and faith." -- Elie Wiesel, personal correspondence have read many accounts of the Holocaust, but never one which also gives such important historical background. -- Sally Arteseros, former editor at Doubleday, personal correspondencePassport to Life is far, far more than an autobiographical memoir...Do not pass up this book. -- The Midwest Book Review

Dr. Emanuel Tanay is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Medical School of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He is a well known forensic psychiatrist who has been an expert witness in many famous cases such as the Jack Ruby case, the Ted Bundy case, the Sam Sheppard case, and the Robert Garwood case. Dr. Tanay is the author of many publications, including a book on homicide, and co-author of a psychiatric book on the survivors of the Holocaust. He is featured in the Oscar-nominated documentary, "Courage to Care" and also in the permanent exhibit "Testimonies" on view at the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. Dr. Tanay is Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and of the American

Psychiatric Association. He has also received the highest award from the American Academy for Psychiatry and the Law. Dr. Tanay is Past President of the Michigan Psychiatric Society.

I've read numerous books on the Holocaust. Some were repetitious. Dr. Tanay's book elicits empathy for another human being like no other. For a 15-year old boy, relatively uneducated in the academic world, was "the" reason his mother and sister Olenka survived the Holocaust. The realism depicted in this book transport you to the mountains in Bavaria. You can almost smell the food that he describes during the Sabbath celebrations. His early sexual encounters confirm the need for human closeness during those most trying years. His tireless efforts to stay alive are awe inspiring. I can recommend this book without reservation. The resourcefulness of Dr. Tanay and his tenacity in overcoming impossible obstacles demand that the Holocaust not be denied. Read it, it will change your life and help you appreciate what freedom really means. E. A. Slanga

This video is a brief comment on a book that reveals unimaginable human suffering. Although the author is obviously suffering a lot, sorry to say there is a lack of emotional range in the story of his survival, and I believe that is because he was a teenager at the time of those events. I'm so glad he made it through and out. I'm blessed and edified to have read this book. J.L.

An amazing tale of survival of the Holocaust. The late Emanuel Tanay led a rich life despite so many attempts made to end it early. The book paints a picture of the tough life of Jews in Poland even before the Holocaust. Tanay was a man of strong opinions.

Tanya's recounting of his experiences as a teenager prior to and during WWII are without peer. It is the first book I have read that calls out the horrendous persecution of Jews by Catholic clergy. I also was not aware of the antisemitism in Poland before the war. This is a very sobering book.

This is one of the most profound books that I have read on the holocaust. Dr. Emanuel Tanay writes the history of the holocaust and takes the reader on a journey of what he endured at the hands of the Nazis. Passport to Life is a read that I will never forget. God Bless You Dr. Tanay. Thank you for sharing your story.

Passport To Life: Autobiographical Reflections on the Holocaust is the firsthand story of Dr. Emanuel Tanay, a successful forensic psychiatrist and a Jew who survived the depredations of Nazi

genocide during World War II, when he was only a child. After the war, his experienced hatred and the threat of murder in his native Poland, but relative peace and asylum in Germany, and later moved to America. Sixty years later, his testimony is not only a narration of and reflection upon the genocidal atrocities he personally witnessed and experienced. It reveals the struggles of survivors to cling to life to be heroic and resourceful, in a situation where lack of power and arms among Jews in general meant that direct resistance against the Nazis would only guarantee personal extermination. Passport To Life is also an erudite and scholarly treatise on the nature of hatred, and the core human impulses that are all too easily channeled into sadistic and masochistic fervor ("you have to be carefully taught not to hate", the author warns), whether by organized religion, ideology, totalitarian government, or other sources. Passport To Life is particularly vital in that it deconstructs mythologies that have arisen about the Holocaust. For example, the author was personally present in Warsaw at the time the Uprising began, and warns against characterizing it as a true rebellion, since it claimed the lives of very few German soldiers and had zero military impact upon the course of the war. Rather, he characterizes it as a mass suicide of Jews who preferred to die from German guns rather than be sent to Treblinka. Since World War II there has been a tendency to overdramatize or exaggerate Christian rescues of Jewish people; Tanay respects the nobility of those who did so but also carefully delineates examples in which the truth is lost to the need to mythologize history and a few make good men into saints rather than confront the overall horror of what really happened. Tanay further dissects with clinical expertise the nature of hatred itself, demonstrating that the most virulent hatreds are perpetrated against individuals or groups the hater knows nothing about, or believes fantasies about; hatred is not borne of logic or reason, and therefore rationality is no defense against it. Emphasizing the critical importance of broadcasting a counter-message to the many widespread propaganda of hate today, including but not limited to hatred against unbelievers spread within specific Islamic states, Passport To Life offers the key to understanding and hopefully preventing worse genocidal deprivations in the future. Though it deals with complex psychological issues, Passport To Life is written in plain terms that invite no confusion regardless of the readers' level of familiarity with history or psychology. Passport To Life is far, far more than an autobiographical memoir. It is more than a record of Holocaust atrocities. It is quite literally the embodiment of its title, an indispensable contribution to Holocaust literature shelves and psychology shelves, and bears the absolute highest recommendation to school libraries, public libraries, Holocaust literature collections, scholars and lay readers alike. Do not pass up this book.

This is the most important book published in this format. It combines the memoir of a Holocaust

survivor with the analysis of many aspects of the whole era, and its aftereffects to date. The number of issues thoroughly discussed in this remarkable book is incredible. It took the author thirty years of study and research, including self-study to make possible the profound examination and analysis of issues pertaining to the Nazi movement and German peoples Genocide, Polish and Jewish (and often the world's) reactions during and after the Holocaust. Dr. Tanay's courage and fortrightness permits him to expose and discuss many commonly held opinions and prejudices in a variety of groups and people, including his own. His analyses are profound, and he has tested them bravely and boldly on various groups and audiences in over thirty years. His background in political science, medicine, psychiatry, psychoanalysis and forensic psychiatry enables him to produce a very interesting and readable book which is fascinating in many ways.

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